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statement that clover seed is a failure when the flowers are not visited by bees.

The Bluebird and Holly berries.—Mr. **Thomas Meehan** observed that the Blue bird had this season stripped his Holly trees of their berries, though it had been supposed by all, he believed, that no birds ate them. Some of the trees were but a few feet from his library window, which gave him a good opportunity to note that it was this and not the Snow-bird. These birds remained with him all through the severe weather of December, not leaving till the January snows came. They fed also on the berries of the common red cedar. He believed in the case of this bird the migration south in the winter season was not with them a question of temperature, but one of food. At least they remained with him in his cedar woods till the berries were all gone.

Vitality of Seeds under Low Temperature.—Mr. **Thomas Meehan** referred to the seeds of wheat, oats and Indian corn, which, after having been left by the Polaris in 1872, had been found in 1876 by the Nares exploring expedition, and which. though exposed to the severity of four arctic winters, had yet grown. The growing plants had recently been exhibited before an English scientific society, and surprise expressed, particularly that seed of the maize, a tropical plant, should have received no injury. Mr. Meehan said that though the facts may not have been placed on record, it was not unknown in America that seeds of tropical plants had a power of resisting low temperatures not possessed by the plants themselves. The common forms of *Ipomæa*, known as "morning glories," the "Balsams" (*Impatiens*), the common tomato, and others, came up in gardens from self-sown seeds; and indeed there were large numbers of tropical weeds, which the first frosts destroy, and yet the seedlings appear the next year in great numbers. He called attention to this arctic experience with seeds, however, chiefly to suggest what had often occurred to him, from such observations, that seeds may keep for an indefinite time in low temperatures, when under high ones they soon lose vitality. There is no reason that he knew of why seeds might not get into an iceberg—keeping fresh perhaps for centuries—and in this way some problems in the geographical distribution of plants be solved. He suggested trials by those who had the opportunity. The common silver maple (*Acer dasycarpum*) had seed which usually completely lost vitality in a couple of months from maturity. Experiments with these by those who had large ice-houses, could not fail of resulting in useful knowledge.

On Rocky Mountain Locusts.—Dr. **Le Conte** exhibited some recently hatched Rocky Mountain locusts, commonly called grasshoppers, which had just been sent to him by Professor Henry, of the Smithsonian Institution, and read the following communica-